

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00671 301959Z

64

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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P 301210Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2763

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0671

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: EINV, NS

SUBJ: REPORTS OF ALCOA AND REYNOLDS PAYMENTS ABROAD

REF : (A) STATE 141337, (B) PARAMARIBO 0629

1. HEAD OF OFFICIAL SURINAM SERVICE, ON BEHALF OF MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE, CALLED AT EMBASSY JULY 29 TO REQUEST ASSISTANCE ON CLARIFYING REPORTS RECENTLY FILED BY REYNOLDS AND ALCOA WITH SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION REGARDING QUESTIONABLE PAYMENTS ABROAD, PARTICULARLY AS TO WHETHER ANY SUCH PAYMENTS MAY HAVE BEEN MADE IN SURINAM.

2. SERVICE SAID MINISTER HAD ASKED HIM TO LOOK INTO MATTER ANTICIPATING A DEMAND FOR AN INQUIRY FROM A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (REPORTED SEPTEL). HE OBSERVED THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION REGARDING POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF UNNAMED SURINAMERS.

3. WE HAVE TOLD SERVICE THAT ANY REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON A MATTER SUCH AS THIS WOULD HAVE TO COME THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF GENERAL AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS BEFORE WE COULD CONSIDER IT FURTHER. SERVICE CHIEF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD OUR POSITION AND WOULD DISCUSS QUESTION WITH THE MINISTER.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY TOOK POSITION INDICATED ABOVE FOR TWO
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REASONS. FIRST, WE THOUGHT IT IMPROPER TO HANDLE A MATTER

OF THIS KIND THROUGH CONFIDENTIAL AGENCY CHANNELS. IN
ADDITION, MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND POLICE EDDY HOOST IS
MEMBER OF LEFT-LEANING PNR PARTY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BRUMA,
AND ANY INVESTIGATION OR PUBLIC DEBATE OF PAYMENTS ISSUE COULD
GENERATE SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEBATE, INVOLVING PNR, PRIME
MINISTER ARRON'S NPS PARTY, AND OPPOSITION VHP, INTO WHICH
USG SHOULD NOT BE DRAWN. ZURHELLEN

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